

First Response**Remarks**

The allowance of claims 9 and 10 is noted and appreciated.

The conditional allowance of claim 6 and 7 is noted and appreciated. Claim 6 has been rewritten to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening dependent claim 5. Consequently claim 6 is allowable. Dependent claim 7 has been amended and now depends from an allowable claim 6. Consequently claim 7 is also allowable.

Base claims 1 and 8 have been amended to define applicants inventions more clearly in response to the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent, 4,847,973 (Lundeen).

Applicant's cable attachment receives an end length 83 of cable 72 transversely into the open ended loading slot 84 in the end portion of member 42 until the end length of cable is disposed in the inner end portion 92 of loading slot 84 as shown in figure 5 of the patent application drawing. This is not possible with the cable attachment shown in figure 9c of the Lundeen '973 patent in which the passageway 12 is designed to receive a button or ferrule 24 at the end of the cable 25 axially.

Base claims 1 and 8 now define the claimed open ended loading slot shown at 84 in the preferred embodiment and the claimed fingers shown at 86 and 88 in terms that clearly do not read on the loading slot 12 and fingers identified as F1 and F2 in the reproduction of Lundeen Fig. 9c incorporated in the Office Action. Consequently claims 1-5 and 8 are not anticipated by the Lundeen '973 patent under 35 USC §102(b). Moreover, there is nothing to suggest modifying the Lundeen '973 cable attachment to achieve the cable attachment defined in claims 1-5 and 8. Consequently, claims 1-5 and 8 are also patentable under 35 USC § 103.

Please reexamine claims 1-10 in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

If it is determined that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and respectfully requested to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: March 20, 2003.


Noelle Constantinou